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Message Text

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TOSEC 163

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OGEN, SY
SUBJECT: SYRIAN NEWSPAPER'S "OPEN LETTER TO KISSINGER"

THERE FOLLOWS FOR YOUR INFORMATION THE TEXT AS CONTAINED IN FBIS OF AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "AN OPEN LETTER TO KISSINGER" PUBLISHED IN THE SYRIAN OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER AT-THAWRAH, DEC 13, BY "ALI SULEIMAN". YOUR ATTENTION IS DRAWN PARTICULARLY TO PARA 11.

1. "OUR PEOPLE'S DESIRE FOR PEACE HAS ALREADY BEEN CRYSTALLIZED BY PRESIDENT HAFIZ AL-ASAD IN TWO BASIC DEMANDS. THESE ARE: 1) THE RETURN OF THE ARAB TERRITORIES WHICH WERE OCCUPIED AS A RESULT OF THE 1967 ISRAELI AGGRESSION: 2) RECOGNIZING GUARANTEEING THE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. ALL SIDES HAVE ALREADY FORMULATED THEIR STANDS ON THE MIDDLE EAST WHILE THE U.S. STAND REMAINS AMBIGUOUS.
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2. OUR PEOPLE'S DESIRE AND NEED FOR PEACE WAS THE REASON WHY THEY OVERLOOKED THEIR FEELINGS TOWARD THE UNITED STATES AND ITS HOSTILE ATTITUDES TOWARD ARAB RIGHTS AND ARE WILLING TO RECEIVE HIM HERE IN DAMASCUS.

3. THE ARABS HAVE ALREADY ANNOUNCED THEIR DEMANDS AND STANDS AT THE ALGIERS SUMMIT CONFERENCE. ISRAEL HAS ALSO

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ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO HOLD SOME OF THE ARAB TERRITORIES IT OCCUPIED IN 1967. IT SAID THAT IT WILL NOT WITHDRAW FROM JERUSALEM, SHARM ASH-SHAYKH AND

THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AND THAT IT WILL NOT AGREE TO ESTABLISH A PALESTINIAN ENTITY. THE SOVIET UNION, EUROPE AND THE NONALIGNED STATES HAVE ALSO CLEARLY DEFINED THEIR POSITIONS AND EXPRESSED THEIR OPINIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM.

4. THE UNITED STATES IS THE ONLY STATE - AND ALLY OF ISRAEL - WHICH STILL SHROUDS ITS OFFICIAL STAND WITH AMBIGUOUS AND VAGUE STATEMENTS. THE TASK OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WILL BE A DIFFICULT ONE AS LONG AS THE UNITED STATES CONCEALS ITS OFFICIAL STAND BY VAGUE STATEMENTS WHICH CAN BE INTERPRETED IN DIFFERENT WAYS.

5. THE UNITED STATES IS PUSHING THE CONFLICTING SIDES TO THE PEACE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA WHILE AT THE SAME TIME GIVING ISRAEL ALL KINDS OF MILITARY, FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGING IT TO ADOPT A RIGID AND INTRANSIGENT STAND.

6. THE ARABS DO NOT TRUST US INTENTIONS AND PROMISES BECAUSE THEY SEE THE UNITED STATES, "INCLUDING MR. KISSINGER," AS EXPLOITING TIME IN THE INTEREST OF ISRAEL AND FREEZING THE BATTLEFRONT TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE OF ARAB DIVISION AND LATER TO USE THIS DIVISION TO PROLONG ISRAELI OCCUPATION. THIS WOULD THEN GIVE THEM OPPORTUNITY TO EXERT PRESSURE ON THE ARAB COUNTRIES, EUROPE AND THE SOVIET UNION TO RELIEVE THE PRESSURE NOW BEING APPLIED
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ON THE ISRAELI AGGRESSORS.

7. IN 1970 ROGERS PRESENTED A PLAN FOR A PARTIAL SOLUTION FOR PEACE WHICH, DESPITE ITS INJUSTICE, EGYPT ACCEPTED PERHAPS TO ASCERTAIN US INTENTIONS. HOWEVER, THE BIG POWER REVERSED ITS PLAN. THE ARABS THEN UNDERSTOOD THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT SEEKING A SOLUTION BUT WAS SEARCHING FOR A WEAK POINT THROUGH WHICH THE WORST SUR-

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RENDER SITUATION COULD BE IMPOSED.

8. MR. KISSINGER, AFTER THE CEASEFIRE YOU PRESENTED A 6-POINT PLAN OF WHICH ONLY ONE CLAUSE ON THE RELEASE OF THE ISRAELI PRISONERS WAS IMPLEMENTED. THE ARABS UNDERSTAND NOW THAT THE PLAN WAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPLEMENTING THE CLAUSE RELATED TO THE RELEASE OF THE PRISONERS BECAUSE THE REMAINING POINTS, THE MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH IS THE SEPARATION OF THE FORCES AND THE WITHDRAWAL TO THE 22 OCTOBER LINES, REMAINS SO FAR UNSOLVED.

9. WHAT WOULD THE GENEVA CONFERENCE DISCUSS? WOULD IT DISCUSS THE BASIC PROBLEM CREATED BY THE 1967 WAR OR THE PROBLEM OF SEPARATING THE FORCES AND SEARCHING FOR THE 22 OCTOBER LINES?

10. OUR PEOPLE DESIRE A JUST PEACE AND A LASTING SOLUTION. THEY DESIRE TO KNOW WHAT THE UNITED STATES WANTS; WITHOUT KNOWING THIS IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO PROCEED TO A "PEACE CONFERENCE" BECAUSE PARTICIPATING IN THE CONFERENCE DISCUSSIONS WOULD BECOME SIMILAR TO THOSE AT KILOMETER 101 - NOT SOLVING THE POLITICAL CRISIS BUT ATTEMPTING TO FIND A SOLUTION TO SOME OF ITS IMPLICATIONS.

11. WHAT DOES KISSINGER WANT? WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY "EXTREMIST SOLUTIONS" WHICH HE FEARED THAT SOVIET UNION WOULD DEMAND? AND THEN WHAT IS THE PICTURE OF "THE MODERATE US STAND" WHICH HE REFERRED TO IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ON 7 DECEMBER? DOES IT MEAN THAT HE IS ABOUT TO BEGIN ASKING THE ARAB STATES TO CONCEDE PARTS OF THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORY? WHAT DOES THE UNITED STATES WANT? DOES IT WANT TO OUST EUROPE FROM THE AREA OR ISOLATE THE SOVIET INFLUENCE SUPPORTING THE ARAB RIGHT OR LIFT THE EMBARGO
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OF ARAB OIL TO THE UNITEDSTATES? OR DOES IT WANT TO SETTLE THE QUESTION OF ISRAELI PRISONERS OF WAR IN SYRIA?

12. WE ASK MR. KISSINGER TO GIVE CLEAR ANSWERS ABOUT THE US STAND REGARDING THE TWO ARAB DEMANDS WHICH THE ARABS AGREED TO ADHERE TO AT THE ALGIERS SUMMIT BECAUSE THIS IS A BASIC CONDITION TO REVEAL THE CONFERENCE'S TASK AND TO KNOW WHAT RESULTS IT CAN POSSIBLY ACHIEVE.

13. THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT INTEND TO SOLVE THE CRISIS. IT ONLY WANTS TO GAIN TIME AND UTILIZE IT IN ISRAEL'S FAVOR: TO FREEZE THE SITUATION IN THE AREA AND TO CONTROL ITS IMPLICATIONS PENDING THE DISRUPTION OF THE UNITY OF THE ARAB RANKS, EVEN IF GRADUALLY: AND BRING THE AREA WITHIN US-ISRAELI INFLUENCE,

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14. THIS IS THE ARAB PEOPLE'S VIEW. AND THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THEIR QUESTIONS. WHAT HAVE YOU TO SAY, MR. KISSINGER?" RUSH

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